

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM

2012 ANNUAL REPORT

Missouri Department of Economic Development



YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR 2012

The Youth Opportunities Program (YOP) is authorized to allocate up to \$6 million in tax credits per calendar year for projects that target Missouri's at-risk youth. Through the 2012 application cycle, YOP allocated a total of \$6,000,000 in tax credits to 37 youth projects throughout the state. Contributions to these projects will fund programming for 36 youth service projects and the renovation /expansion of 1 facility. A 2012 project list is enclosed.

Approved 2012 projects have the potential to generate \$12 million in contributions, leveraging approximately \$6 million in private sector dollars. Since its inception in 1997, YOP has raised \$119,504,747 in contributions for projects focused on serving Missouri's at-risk youth.

YOP primarily partners with non-profits that work in their communities to develop and implement projects and services for at-risk youth. Non-profits team up with the Youth Opportunities Program to leverage private dollars to fund projects that meet this goal. These programs help youth overcome their current circumstances and realize their potential as productive citizens. YOP is an incentive for non-profits to provide specialized programming for disadvantaged youth who would otherwise not have such opportunities.

The Youth Opportunities Program has established program outcomes as a means to measure and verify the impact the program is having throughout the state. Priority is given to projects with outcomes impacting one or more of the following five areas:

- 1. Increase the number of at-risk youth that receive a high school diploma.**
- 2. Increase the number of at-risk youth that receive a GED.**
- 3. Increase the number of at-risk youth that remain in school and earn course credit(s) toward a diploma.**
- 4. Reduce the number of at-risk youth committing crimes and violent acts.**
- 5. Increase the number of at-risk youth that have completed an employment skills education and development program.**

Table 1.1 (on the next page) shows the amount of tax credits redeemed to date and reflects the true cost to the State for the outcomes achieved in Table 1.2. Taxpayers have the tax year in which they made a contribution, plus five succeeding tax years to redeem their tax credits.

Table 1.1: Tax Credit Utilization

	2010	2011	2012
Credits Authorized To Date¹	\$4,853,032	\$5,314,796	\$6,000,000
Credits Issued To Date²	\$4,177,948	\$2,854,254	\$830,734
Credits Redeemed To Date³	\$3,246,744	\$1,671,967	\$5,736

¹ Credits Authorized = Total Amount Authorized each calendar year minus recaptured, as of 12/31/2012.

² Credits Issued = Total Credits issued as of 12/31/2012 for the projects authorized in each calendar year.

³ Credits Redeemed = Total Credits that have been redeemed by contributing taxpayers as of 12/31/2012 for Contributions made to projects authorized in each year.

YOP projects that ended and were closed from 2010-2012 have reported the following results under each of the program outcomes (Table 1.2). The numbers are the totals to date for the projects that ended in each year. The outcome totals fluctuate from year to year due to varying project time frames, the types of projects funded each year, and the number of projects closed each year. Some numbers may include duplicated youth if the youth participate in the program more than one year or if they achieved more than one outcome.

Table 1.2: Outcomes Achieved

	2010	2011	2012
# of Jobs Retained and New	160	186	
# Earning High School Diploma or GED	27	156	75
# Earning School Credits and/or Improving GPA	940	11,021	10,396
# Not Committing Crimes and/or Completing Violence Prevention Courses	1,528	15,939	9,195
# Abstaining from Drug and Alcohol Use and Completing Prevention Programs	1,364	9,390	1,576
# Completing Life Skills Training or Participating in Mentoring	869	3,658	8,667
# Learning Employment Skills and/or Receiving Job Placement	222	1,245	2,523
# Increasing Knowledge in Science, Math, or Business	14,324	52,135	439
# Achieving Other Outcomes (Such as counseling, crisis intervention, improved social skills development, etc.)	974	14,698	18,170

As shown by the outcome data above, numerous projects are successfully helping youth become more productive adults with YOP tax credits as a tool. Covenant House Missouri (CHMO) and Child Abuse & Neglect Emergency Shelter, Inc. are two such projects. With YOP, these organizations are contributing in a very real way to meet the needs of disadvantaged youth in our communities. The following summaries demonstrate the ways in which these agencies are making positive, lasting differences in the lives of Missouri's youth.

Covenant House Missouri, a nonprofit organization and affiliate of Covenant House International, came to St. Louis in 1998 as an Outreach program. Over the years, Covenant House has expanded and grown its services to meet the evolving needs of its clients and the community.

Today, Covenant House provides an array of services, including housing and support services, to homeless and at-risk youth in the St. Louis region. With a mission to mitigate youth homelessness and poverty, the agency not only provides youth, ages 16-21 years, with safe and appropriate shelter, but also with supports including mentoring programs, job placement and internships, mental health treatment, healthcare, exercise programs, community building, tutoring and educational services, and case management. The agency's mission is to provide these youth with absolute respect and unconditional love to help them become happy, healthy, self-sufficient and productive members of the community.

Approved in 2010 for a two year project, Covenant House Missouri directs donations received as part of the Youth Opportunities Program to the core components of its Supportive Living Program. The core components, which include Education, Employment, Life Skills Training and Counseling, are key elements to helping homeless and at-risk youth achieve adult independence and self-sufficiency.

Covenant House Missouri's YOP performance targets include:



- 150 of 200 youth will increase their academic levels by at least one grade level after 100 hours of services.
- 140 of 170 youth participating in employment training classes will demonstrate improvement in work readiness.
- 50 of 50 residential youth participating in life skills training classes will demonstrate increased knowledge.

- 60 of 90 youth presenting with mental health issues will receive mental health services through CHMO's on-site mental health program.

Through the Supportive Living Program and YOP, CHMO is providing for the sound development of homeless, runaway and disadvantaged youth in Missouri.



Child Abuse & Neglect Emergency Shelter, Inc., known as Rainbow House, is also successfully utilizing YOP tax credits for its Children's Emergency Shelter and Homeless Teen programs.



When children are removed from their homes due to life-threatening abuse or neglect, a temporary home must be found for them until more permanent plans are made. Since 1986, Rainbow House's Children's Emergency Shelter has provided that safe haven for children in crisis from birth to 18 years of age. The agency also provides services for children who may need placement by their parents due to a family crisis, such as: medical and mental health emergencies, death in the family, parent participation in an alcohol or drug rehabilitation program, highly stressful home situations with little or no support, eviction, lack of food and utilities, and domestic violence.

The Homeless Youth Program opened as a service of Rainbow House in November 2007. The program provides transitional living services and emergency shelter for youth ages 16-18 years who are homeless, or at risk for homelessness, due to abusive or unsafe situations in their current environment. Youth are admitted to the program on a voluntary basis, often after being referred by a school counselor, other homeless youth, an adult homeless shelter, law enforcement, or Juvenile and Children's Division offices. Rainbow House requires youth in the program to: enroll in an educational, vocational, or employment placement program, participate in weekly life-skills classes and counseling services, enroll in the mentoring program, and create a discharge plan.

In addition to providing a safe and structured environment, Rainbow House provides the following for at-risk youth residing in the Emergency Shelter or Homeless Teen Program: comprehensive assessments, weekly therapy (including individual, family, and group counseling), case management, transportation to and from school, tutoring, life skills development, and follow-up care.

The performance targets for Rainbow House's three year YOP project include:

- 105 of 135 youth will participate in weekly life skills training, demonstrating an increase in knowledge of the life skills subject presented in each training session.
- 233 of 345 youth will remain in school, be enrolled in a GED program, or receive their diploma.
- 150 of 210 youth will participate in conflict resolution education, demonstrating increased knowledge in how to effectively deal with conflict.

Both Covenant House and Rainbow House are successfully using YOP tax credits as a tool to cultivate new donor relationships, increase reach and capacity, and ultimately, to enhance the lives of Missouri's most at-risk youth.

Youth Opportunities Program - 2012 Project List

Organization Name	Authorized Amount	Credits Issued
Big Brothers Big Sisters Of Central Missouri	\$102,782	\$9,489
Big Brothers Big Sisters Of Eastern Missouri	\$250,000	\$107,147
Big Brothers Big Sisters Of Greater Kansas City	\$138,228	\$1,000
Boys & Girls Clubs Of The Columbia Area	\$249,979	\$65,100
Boys & Girls Clubs Of West Central Mo	\$65,000	
Boys And Girls Club Of The Capital City	\$172,997	
Boys And Girls Clubs Of Greater Kansas City	\$150,396	
Boys Hope Girls Hope Of St. Louis, Inc.	\$115,708	\$37,682
Cameron Regional YMCA	\$46,925	\$4,150
Carpenters Joint Training Fund Of St. Louis	\$34,271	
Catholic Charities Community Services	\$245,824	\$23,844
Child Center – Marygrove (fka Catholic Comprehensive Services)	\$250,000	
Children's Foundation Of Mid-America/Presbyterian	\$191,280	\$79,599
Coyote Hill Christian Children's Home	\$249,566	\$76,421
Epworth Children & Family Services	\$177,449	\$68,547
Evangelical Children's Home (dba Every Child's Hope)	\$250,000	\$25,520
Girls Incorporated Of St. Louis	\$69,631	\$1,000
Great Circle (fka Boys Town & Edgewood)	\$238,169	\$2,750
Herbert Hoover Boys And Girls Club	\$250,000	\$35,475
Kids In The Middle, Inc.	\$250,000	\$32,991
Kingdom House	\$205,494	\$85,907
Life Skills	\$165,041	\$11,857
Logos School	\$58,730	
Lutheran Family & Children's Services Of Missouri	\$191,733	\$86,002
Nurses For Newborns Foundation	\$80,000	\$13,250
Operation Breakthrough, Inc.	\$191,847	
Sherwood Forest Camp, Inc.	\$223,889	\$28,250
St. Joseph Institute For The Deaf	\$60,538	\$6,000
St. Louis Artworks	\$20,000	
St. Louis Crisis Nursery	\$250,000	\$7,000
St. Louis Science Center Foundation	\$125,000	
St. Patrick Center	\$189,117	\$7,547
Synergy Services, Inc.	\$143,721	
Team Activities For Special Kids (Task)	\$229,698	
The Children's Home Society Of Missouri	\$76,569	\$10,116
Variety The Children's Charity Of St. Louis, Inc.	\$193,719	
Youth Learning Center	\$96,699	\$4,090